

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 115**

February 2, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes a pilot program known as the “Electronic Publication of Legal Notices Act.” Authorizes Knox County to post required legal notices on its official government Web site in lieu of publication in a newspaper. Requires Knox County to provide printed copies of notices to individuals who cannot access the Web site and to establish a complaint review process. The program will begin September 1, 2011, and will automatically terminate on August 20, 2013, unless continued by the General Assembly.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease Local Expenditures – \$39,800/FY11-12/Permissive  
\$47,700/FY12-13/Permissive  
\$8,000/FY13-14/Permissive**

**Assumptions:**

- Knox County has an official Web site that is accessible to the public at least 90 percent of the time, 24 hours per day, each day of the year. According to Knox County, no additional costs will be incurred to create a legal notice and complaint link on its Web site.
- The *Knoxville News Sentinel* is a newspaper of general circulation in Knox County.
- According to the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, Knox County published 386 legal notices in 2010 or 32 notices per month. Each legal notice ran for one day and averaged 110 lines.
- The 2010 rate for legal notices was \$1.13 per line (Monday through Saturday) and \$1.22 per line (Sunday).
- The number of legal notices published each year during the term of the pilot program remains the same and Knox County posts all legal notices on its official government Web site in lieu of a newspaper of general circulation during each year of the proposed program resulting in a decrease to local expenditures of \$39,776 (32 notices x 10 months x 110 lines x \$1.13) in FY11-12; \$47,731.20 (32 notices x 12 months x 110 lines x \$1.13) in FY12-13; and \$7,955.20 (32 notices x 2 months x 110 lines x \$1.13) in FY13-14.
- The fiscal year in Knox County begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

- There will not be a significant number of requests for printed copies of legal notices. Any costs to produce a printed copy of the notice can be accommodated within existing resources.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/agl